

Sincerity and Truth

Read I Corinthians 5: 7-8

EASTER

"Let us keep the feast . . . with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

Happy Easter! Underlying this traditional Easter greeting is the wish that Easter may bring the happiness that Easter is meant to bring to the human heart, a sincere and truthful rejoicing in Christ, the Living Saviour.

At Easter, Christ stands out radiantly in the lives of many believers. For they have followed Christ to the cross and have walked the way of penitence. They know the burden and sorrow of sin in their lives. They realize the price Christ paid that He might carry their burdens and be wounded for their transgressions. Their sin and guilt is left at the cross. Risen from the grave, Christ stands victoriously as the power over sin and death in their lives. They have been purged from the old leaven.

There is still much old leaven in the world, even in the Church. It is thought, that somehow God will overlook sin and not judge severely, and that what is promised in Jesus Christ is merely added to life in spite of corruption and sin. That is the false leaven of life. It is what the devil would have us believe. The only way God passes over sin is by the blood of Christ, entirely blotting out sin. Christ is our passover. Nothing we can do, no sacrifice we can make, can satisfy God and move Him to forgive our sins.

Sincere, honest, genuine and free from hypocrisy—is that descriptive of your attitude toward God? It is? Then you know what it means to purge out the old leaven. Purge out wrong ideas. Let God's Word be the truth that guides you.

"With the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, let us keep the feast." Easter is observed by the world as a holiday. It is commercialized by industry as a spring dress parade. The Easter season may be a gay season. But, is the old leaven purged out? Easter joy is not shallow. Real Easter joy comes from the depths of the heart, and is experienced by the forgiven sinner. Because Easter is the convincing fact to the greatest truth.

Truth — to possess the supreme truth in all the world is to know and believe in the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. This truth produces joy, the joy of forgiveness. This truth produces hope, the hope of eternal life. The bonds of death are broken. Jesus lives!

Praise the Victor—King, whose sway Sin and death and hell obey.
Jesus lives! Let all rejoice!

G. E. M.

An old Scottish woman who was alone for the greater part of the day was asked, "What do you do during the day?" "Well," she said, "I get my book, and I have a little hymn of praise to the Lord." Then she added, "I get my Bible and let the Lord speak to me. When I am tired of reading, and I cannot sing any more, I just sit and let the Lord love me."—Moody Monthly.

1. Personal Possession — "I am thy God."
2. Personal Presence — "I am with thee."
3. Personal Inducement — "I will strengthen thee."
4. Personal Sustenance — "I will help thee."
5. Personal Security — "I will uphold thee."

—Harvey O. Olney.



Who Shall Ascend? . . . by MELVA ROREM

Brooding within the hearts of those who know the blessedness of dwelling in high places is a desire to ever thrill to hill-top walks with God. Even when shadows deep and dark fearfully threaten, the desire is there. Shadows will always fall. Self would enclose us in the narrowest of boundaries, shriveling our hearts and minds with envy, greed, and fear, weighting our souls with cluttered days, keeping our satisfaction hazardingly little, our desire dead.

But One there is who bids us yield up self. One there is who bids us leave self far behind, to climb to that high plane where life begins—where vision has been granted.

Who can it be but God who leads us from these lower darkneses to higher hills? And what more can His Majesty bestow on us than grace to walk . . . with Him? It matters not if high upon His hills exulting winds toss to and fro, or if in minor tone they sob . . . and sigh . . . and cry. Sometimes within the storms a deeper rapture broods than when the night is hushed, and still, and clear. It matters not if far above the stars seem white and frozen in the sky, or if they come so close they seem as pools of shimmering silver. Still beauty's shadow rests on us. It matters only that with fearless hearts we follow Him who bids us have clean hands . . . and have pure hearts. It matters only that at last we find Him . . . on His Holy Hill!

Who shall ascend?

Home Missions Superintendent's Report

CANADA DISTRICT 1946

According to the latest reports available there are 400,498 Lutherans in Canada. About one half, or 200,186 are found in Lutheran Churches.

The present membership of our own Church in Canada is 13,357 souls. Of these 8,907 are confirmed. Our net gain for 1945 was 168. There are 51 parishes and 42 pastors. Of the 51 parishes 29 are receiving home mission aid.

I have visited nineteen of the 29 home mission parishes the past year. In 24 of the parishes visited definite self-support salary scales have been set up. Suggested scales have been set up for the other parishes. If these are followed, all but two congregations will be self-supporting in seven years. God willing, all home mission parishes will have been visited by the close of 1947.

The proposed budget for home mission support in 1946 was \$26,943. In 1947 the proposed budget is \$24,387.59. However, the congregations have increased their support \$7,660 so that we were able to increase 21 home mission pastors \$4,275, or an average of \$203.00. There will still be eight home mission pastors receiving less or the exact amount of our \$1,600.00 minimum. It would take exactly \$1,000.00 to increase all home mission pastors to a minimum of \$1,600.00. The above increase is not too bad when we realize that 14 home mission pastors received \$1,500 or less, during the year 1946.

When it comes to the needs of our home mission pastors, it seems that the mileage question is a very live one now. Last year it cost our pastors approximately an average of \$550.00 to operate a car. That left about \$1,000 for living expenses. Still, almost to a man, they are tithers. The highest cost for car operation, among home mission pastors, was \$952.00. It happened, however, that this home missionary receives a salary of \$1800.

We are aiming, in Canada, at self-support. We plan to approach this from two different angles. We are striving to increase our contributions to the budget at large. The average allocation, until 1947, has been about 1.06 per confirmed member. In 1945

there was 1.69 contributed per confirmed member. The average of the Church was 3.04. However, the new allocation calls for 1.63. The allocation to the Church at large was 2.21 until 1947. It is this last named figure that we have been trying to set up for the congregations as we have presented the increased budget scales at the same time as the increased salary scales. If we could increase our budget contributions \$5,000.00 each year, and decrease our home mission support by the same amount, which we will do if we can follow the scale set-up, we should be self-supporting in five years. Many think it will take at least a generation to accomplish our aim. Only prayer, work and time will tell.

Besides the above appropriations of \$24,387.59 for home mission congregations Canada receives an appropriation of \$8,000.00 per year from the Home Mission Department for the Seminary. This, no doubt, should come from the Department of Education, but it feels that Home Missions should rear its own child. No doubt Education will adopt it, if it is thrown into the arms of a Canadian self-supporting church.

Perhaps our greatest problem is a continual decrease of population. In Saskatchewan where we have 9,000 of the 13,000 members there was a decrease of population of 72,544 people in the last five years—from 895,992 in 1941, to 823,438 in 1946. I have often said that many people in the prairie provinces think more of getting to British Columbia (B.C.) than to heaven. When I said this one time a man spoke up, "That is heaven." What is going to be done is hard to tell. Immigration will have to be part of the answer. She talks of doubling her population in this manner. No doubt most of it will come from across the waters and our particular church will not benefit much by it. The ULCA and the ALC churches will no doubt benefit from this immigration. But half of Canada is still unchurched. We have 6,000,000 still to work on, and we have only thirteen thousand of them now. The future still is bright.

—Pastor M. A. Dale.

The Living Stone

Row upon row of stones, varying in size and design—grey and white and brown and black, engraved with the tenderest of sentiments. But every stone, a mute testimony to the tragic power of sin and death over Adam's fallen race. To these dead stones many have come to weep as they who have no hope and have returned as those for whom life had lost its purpose.

We know of a grave which never had a tombstone raised in memory over it. It didn't need one. For when mourners came to Jesus' grave to weep they found it empty. Christ had risen—to become the triumphant Victor over sin and death, mighty to save and mighty to keep. He, Himself the Living Stone, gives life and hope and purpose to all who come to Him.

"To Whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (I Pet. 2: 4-5).

Come to the risen Lord and Savior—the Living Stone. Come that He may give you victory over sin, comfort against death, assurance of a blessed purpose for you in life; and after death, the hope of glory. Let Him make you a living stone in His spiritual temple, a member of His Priesthood and of His everlasting Kingdom.

Spring is here. Among the stones of death lies a dear one who fell asleep in Christ. Plant a flower there. Not in mournful memory only, but much more with hope rejoicing: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who according to His great mercy begat us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (I Pet. 1:3-5). A Blessed Easter to all in the Name of the Risen Christ.—A.K.H.

RESURGAN

JOHN RICHARD MORELAND

It happened on an April day,

Bounded by skies so blue and still,

And olive trees all hushed and gray,

They led One up a skull-shaped hill

Followed by a crowd whose piercing

cry

Was, "Crucify!"

It happened on an April morn,

They nailed a Man upon a tree

Whose head was circled with sharp

thorn,

Lifted Him high that all might see

His agony, His heaving breath,

His awful death.

It happened on an April eve—

The air was cut by one sharp cry

That wine or gall could not relieve:

"Eli . . . lama . . . Sabachthani" . . .

Then lightning, thunder crack on

crack,

The sun was black.

It happened on an April day . . .

They tombed a Man (the crowd

had fled),

Sealed it; and set a watch that way

To flout His words; to prove Him

dead;

And show Himself He could not save

From the dark grave.

It happened on an April day . . .

A tremor shook the paling gloom,

A white flame tore the door away,

Life came a victor from the tomb.

Love cannot die, nor truth betray . . .

Christ rose upon an April day!

The Shepherd - Hyrden

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HE IS RISEN

These are some of the greatest words in Scripture! The three words in Scripture, perhaps next in greatness, are "It is finished". Others again may say that the three greatest words are "God Is Love". Yet others find much strength and blessing through heeding the three-word admonition "Pray Without Ceasing".

Yet we know that the resurrection is the foundation of the Gospel. The thrilling story of the Book of Acts brings this out. One sees it in the triumphant forward march of the Gospel; one sees it too in that it was the message of the resurrection that stirred into flame the opposition of the enemies of the cross.

There was no doubt in the Apostle Paul's heart that the resurrection message was fundamental. His matchless first Corinthians fifteen brings this out clearly. So we say this Easter festive season, to all the readers of the Shepherd: A Blessed Easter to All. Triumphant in every believer's heart re-echo the words: "I know that my Redeemer liveth—because He lives, I too shall live."

We call your attention to the fact-filled article by our district President. You will find it on Page 1. Read it and think—pray—and work.

LOOKING TOWARD CONVENTION TIME

We sincerely hope that each of the congregations has elected a delegate to our District Convention. This is usually done at the annual meeting. There have been some that have misunderstood and have therefore thought that the \$10 per year from each congregation, for delegate expenses, was for the District Convention as well as the Biennial Convention of our Church at large. We hope to make it clear then, that the \$10 paid annually by each congregation is NOT for expenses to the District Convention.

It is hardly necessary to state that the convention will be held in Saskatoon and that the dates will be July 3-6. We note that several of our pastors have already had the dates announced through parish papers.

The program committee was to have met on Wednesday of this week but were not able to do so because of a conflict. However the committee will meet on the 13th and will outline the program fully.

The topic for the convention this summer is "A Living Church". This should fit in well with the Year of Evangelism. Sub-topics are as follows: 1. The Source of the Church's Life; 2. A Living Church is a Praying Church; 3. A Living Church is a Witnessing Church: a) In the Manner of Its Life, b) In its Testimonies: a) at Home, b) to the Ends of the Earth; 4. The Living Church is a Ministering Church; 5. A Living Church is a Giving Church.

We hope that each one will remember our convention in daily prayer.

—Crusader.

Two marks of a Christian — giving and forgiving.

THE 1947 LWA APPROACH

Our "Greater Goal" still seems to be a thing in the future of the NLCC. It is therefore necessary for us to put forth every effort to reach the goal. The most recent figures have not come to us as yet, we will try to bring them to you in next month's Crusader. But here is our planned approach:

We are asking each pastor to carry an article on LWA in their April and May parish papers. It is not difficult to make it strong with all the fine material from the head office. We plan to ask all the radio outlets to use the week-end of April 27-28 for the cause of LWA. Then on Sunday, May 4, or the Sunday closest to that time on which services are held, we plan to lift an offering. We have asked Dr. Bergsaker to send us offering envelopes and they will be mailed to each pastor in plenty of time. We sincerely hope every pastor will send out the envelopes, together with a letter, in plenty of time. Where there is no mimeograph, letters can be sent in to our office in Saskatoon, and we will get extra office help, if necessary, to get the letters back to you for mailing. Be sure to give us plenty of time.

This one thing in passing. There has been a misconception in regard to LWA and CLWR. Someone has stated that CLWR goes to the British occupied zones in Germany and elsewhere and that Lutheran World Relief, under LWA, goes to American zones of occupation. This is entirely erroneous. A quotation from a letter to Dr. Bergsaker from Dr. Paul Empie says this, "Confirming our conversation in Minneapolis the other day, I would state that our child feeding program does operate in British and French zones as well as in American." In the light of this fact let us send all our Child Feeding Fund offerings through LWA. Perhaps even congregations who have raised their "greater goal" would be willing to do something special for this cause. Let us all together give this cause one last big boost and be finished with it in May.

—Crusader.

SUMMER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Congregations planning Summer Vacation Bible Schools should get in touch with our Christian schools. Teachers are available from all of our schools. Secure the help you need early.

Students and faculty members of C.L.B.I. have been out making contacts for the school and bringing the message of Christ at many points during the winter term.

A practice teaching, flannelgraph demonstration was held at C.L.B.I. recently. Pastor Stolee's class in Vacation Bible School conducted this very interesting class period. Several children were in attendance.

A series of pictures on the Book of Acts by a slide and filmstrip projector was brought to the students of C.L.B.I. Three film strips of Lutheran World Action were also shown that same evening. During the closing week the gripping mission sound film, "We Too Receive," will be shown by the secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

BOOK REVIEW

"For His Name's Sake" is a devotional book written by Dr. Martin Hegland, and published by Augsburg Publishing House.

Are you looking for a good, scriptural devotional book? Dr. Martin Hegland has rendered a service that can produce great blessing in producing this helpful, edifying and unique devotional book.

On the beautiful cover of the book we find this statement: "A book for daily devotions taking the worshipper through the New Testament in a year."

This book is unique in that the only part that is not direct Scripture quo-

Power For This Hour

TARRY YE

(The second of a series of articles with suggestions for study in the Acts of the Apostles for the Christian who desires to be a better witness in this year of evangelism. Anyone interested in making a more thorough study of the book of Acts should write for the correspondence course available from the Sunday School by Mail, S.L. B.I., Outlook, Sask.)

The crucified, resurrected and risen Christ is our only Savior, our only Guide, our only source of victory and our only Power for this hour. There can be a life connection between the King of kings and the sinner. As Hallesby writes in his book on prayer: "The powers of heaven are at our disposal. Have we made the proper contacts with these powers? Let us pray for the Spirit of prayer. He will take us into the workshop where the power conduits lie. Above the door of this room is written: 'Nothing shall be impossible unto you.' The future of the Christian work which is now being carried on with such great intensity does not depend upon curtailment or reorganization. **It depends upon whether the Spirit of God can persuade us to take up the work of prayer.**"

PRAYING CHRISTIANS

The church today is not a praying church, if we are to judge on the basis of the importance that the average church member attaches to group prayer. In fact, it is very obvious that the average church member today is not on speaking terms with the Lord of lords. Very many of our churches have no weekly prayer meeting, and where this assembly of the saints is still retained, in all too many cases, it is a "weakly" attended service with more time being given to some exhortation by the pastor than to the saints wrestling in prayer for the unsaved, and for more workers in the kingdom.

If there is to be power of this hour, every Christian must again obey the command of Jesus Christ . . . "but TARRY YE . . . until ye be clothed with power from on high." **Study Luke 24:45-53.**

After the ascension of Christ, the believers assembled in the "upper room" for a fellowship and prayer meeting that lasted 10 days. This practice of meeting for prayer on the part of the early Christians was not limited to the days between Ascension and Pentecost. Going through the book of Acts, we conclude that prayer—both private and collective—was basic in the early church.

tation is a very brief, concise heart-felt prayer at the end of each devotional reading. This arrangement brings to the worshipper suitable portions of the New Testament with a descriptive heading. Following this method day by day, one reads through the New Testament in a year.

This book, then, is in a special sense, devotional. It is worth the price \$1.50—and more.

CONFERENCE OF SCHOOLS

A school conference will be held at the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, Camrose, on April 7-8. The faculties of Lutherana Seminary, Camrose Lutheran College, Saskatchewan Lutheran Bible Institute and the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute will participate.

ROSE VALLEY PARISH NEWS

Mr. John Nelson of Archerwill, Sask., has completed seven new church benches for the new church at that place.

Mr. Henry J. Anderson of 1508 Ave. C, North, Saskatoon, has made two combination tract racks and bulletin boards for the Rose Valley par-

Study especially the following references to prayer in the book of Acts: 1:14; 1:24; 2:42; 3:1; 4:24-31; 6:6; 8:15; 9:11; 9:40; 10:9; 10:30-31; 12:5; 12:12; 13:3; 14:23; 16:25; 20:36; 21:5; 22:17; 28:8. **As an extra study, list what was prayed for in each instance. What further references to prayer can you find in the book of Acts? What can you do to get the Christians in your church together to continue with one accord in prayer?**

OPEN BIBLES and OPEN HEARTS

An open Bible and an open heart should be the motto of every Christian. The command "tarry ye" means also to live on the word of life—to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly. The book of Acts is a witness of the fact that salvation is by the word of God which preaches the Lord Jesus Christ. Study Acts 8:4-5 and 14 and 25 and 35, and Acts 10: 42. How scriptural the sermons of the early Christians both apostles and laymen! How full of direct quotations from the Bible! And because they held forth the word of Life, "many believed on the Lord." My Christian friend, is it not obvious to you that before you can be a power in this hour, the word of God must live in your soul? Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord, make friends of God's children and feed on His word! **Study all the sermons and witnessing in the book of Acts to note how central a place the word of God is given as they proclaim the Christ of the Scriptures.**

POWER FROM ON HIGH

In Acts 10:44 we read: "The Holy Spirit fell on all them that heard the word." You cannot separate the Holy Spirit from the Word of God. The Holy Spirit does not work apart from the finished work of Christ. When Christ becomes your King as well as your Savior so that Christ has increased in you, and you have decreased the work of the Spirit is being accomplished in your life. As you tarry in His presence, and the Holy Spirit convicts you of your sinfulness and points out to you the power and righteousness of Jesus, you will have power from on high as you accept the provision of God for you. **Now study the work of the Holy Spirit in Acts.** You will find 53 references to the Holy Spirit in Acts in all the chapters except the following: 3, 12, 14, 17, 18, 22 to and including 27.

—Prepared by G. Loken with assistance from SLBI Acts Class.

ish. They are well made and serviceable. Mr. Anderson says he will take orders if they are wanted by other places.

Mrs. Anton Swanson of Rose Valley ordered six New Testaments with Psalms to give to children she had been sponsor for in baptism. The child's name was printed on the cover.

OBITUARY

The Rev. N. R. T. Braa passed away at Wetaskiwin March 21. Obituary follows in a later issue.

Mr. Johan Anderson, formerly of Millet, Alberta, passed away in Wetaskiwin, March 13. Obituary in a later issue.

The Smoke of a Thousand Villages

The smoke of a thousand villages
Where Christ is little known,
Seeps through the morning sunlight
And drifts towards His Throne.
From Heaven's height in sorrow
He bends to touch and bless
Some heart, whose loving service
Can bring them happiness.
—From "Poems of the African Trail"
Elwood L. Haines.

Jeg er den gode Hyrde.
Joh. 10:11

Hyrden

JEG ER DØREN TIL FAARENE.—Joh. 10:7

Den gode Hyrde setter sit
liv til for faarene.
Joh. 10-11

Wadena, Sask., Første Nr. i April, 1947.

LYSET OG LIVET I DAGNING BLID

Paaskedag—Mark 16: 1-7

Det var tidlig paaskemorgen før solen stod op. Jeg laa vaaken og tenkte paa det herlige evangelium jeg hadde aa bære fram for menigheten. Den som riktig kunne gjennombeves av paaskebudskapet og kjenne paaskegleden; Han er opstanden. Da banket det paa døren. Det var en berømt og meget lærd mann som kom inn. Han hadde iverens hast over seg. “Har De hørt det?” spurte han.” “Jesu gravlagte legeme er funnet, omhyggelig balsamert og listelig skjult av kvinnene og hans disipler. Det er ingen tvil om det,” la han til da han saa at jeg rystet paa hodet. “Merkene er der, baade av naglene og spydstikket—ja, av tornekransen.”—“Umulig, umulig,” ropte jeg, “han er opstanden. De har søkt den levende blant de døde.”

Den lærde mann smilte medlidende. “Korsfestet, død og begravet ble han den store helt og profet, men dermed var ogsaa hans saga ute. Dokumentene som stadfester funnet er undertegnet av vaar tids første forskere som no opholder seg i Jerusalem.”

Det ble med ett saa underlig mørkt omkring meg. Det var som om den store gravsteinen la seg paa mitt bryst. Jeg kunne vanskelig tale. Men med stor møyе fikk jeg stammet: “Er Kristus ikke opstanden, da er vaar forkynnelse intet, da er ogsaa eders tro intet . . .” “Ja, dette er ille for dere som har satt eders lit til de gamle sagn. For oss er dette fund av profeten fra Nasarets døde legeme bare et nytt bevis paa at den vitenskapelige forskning gaar sin seiersgang tross alt.”

Da vaaknet jeg. Det hele var bare en drøm. Gud skje, lov og takk! Jeg kjente det som om steinen var veltet bort. Aa nei, hvor det var blitt lyst omkring meg. Solen gikk op, paaskemorgenens sol, den som “slukker sorgen til evig tid.”

No kunne jeg gaa glad til kirken for aa vitne om ham som er “lyset og livet i dawning blid.” Med dobbel fryd i sjelen gikk jeg, fordi jeg hadde kjent noe av hva det vil si aa ha steinen liggende for døren til graven.

Jo, det var kun en drøm. Og likevel er det netop denne drøm om en død Jesus—om et forgjengelig legeme bak gravsteinen, som saa mange av nutidsmenneskene vil leve pa. De kan ikke forene det med sin førnuft at Jesus er legemlig opstanden. Vi skal ikke strides med dem idag om dette. Det er jo opstandelsens herlige morgen. Vi vil bare si at denne Jesus som er opstanden fra de døde og dermed veldig godtgjorde at han er Guds Sønn, han er svaret paa det spørsmål som ikke bare ble stillet paa pinsedag og i fengslet i Filipi (Ap. gjr. 16:30) men det spørsmål som lever og skal leve i menneskesjelen alle dager, fordi det er det store, dype og omfattende menneskelige spørsmål: . . . hva skal jeg gjøre for aa bli frelst?”

Da du og jeg vaaknet til saa se vaar synd og fikk hunger etter rettferdighet, da spurte vi i vaart hjertes vaande som sjele i samme tilstand alltid har spurt: “Hva skal jeg gjøre?” Og da fikk vi et sterkt fulltonende svar fra Guds Aand gjennom Skriften og vaar egen samvittighet: “Tro paa den Herre Jesus, saa skal du bli frelst . . .”

Var det en død Jesus? Ville vi da ha faat et slikt svar? Umulig. Jesus lever. Derfor fikk vi det forsikrende svar. Saa holder vi den høie fest Med hjertens fryd og glede Og byder Herren selv til gjest, Med livsens lys inntrede.

Kristi forsoningsverk

Liberal teologi har alltid med tilslørte uttrykk søkt aa bortforklare det objektive i Jesu forsoningsverk. Lipsius er den interessanteste og selvstendigste talsmann for det liberale synspunkt paa Jesu døds betydning. Den norske teolog, Dr. Ording staar i nær tilslutning til Lipsium naar han lærer at det ikke er den søning Kristus har utført, som bringer oss i et nytt forhold til Gud. Men dette at han ved sin søning har gjort det mulig for oss “aa sone synden, aa gjøre den god igjen og aa utslette den—andres synder og sine egne; han gjør det mulig for dem, og de har i ham garantien for at det vil lykkes.” Som vi ser framstilles søningen som dette aa møte det onde med det gode, saa “den urett han lider, hos ham ikke blir høve til ny synd, men et middel for det gode.” Her settes syndens skyld helt utenfor. Den kjennsgjerning“oversees at Kristi død brakte en endring i Guds forhold til slekten, ikke bare i slektens forhold til Gud. De nytestamentlige skrifter ser Kristi død som det offer som baade fullender og avslutter de ofre for synd som Gud hadde foreskrevet i den gamle pakt. Kristi offer er det fullkomne, for han er den fullkomne stedfortreder. Han har stedfortredende sonet for vaar synd. Han er slektens stedfortreder, og forsoningen ved hans død gjelder hele slekten. “Gud var i Kristus og forlikte verden med seg selv” 2 Kor. 5:19, 1 Johs. 2:2.

Pakten Gud inngikk ved Kristi død er, at hele slekten skal faa det som tilhører den i Kristus. Saa sørger Gud for at alle mennesker skal faa høre “forsoningens ord.” Derfor døpes barnet like etter fødselen. Det skal faa leve i Kristus og faa det som Kristus vant for det ved sin død. Og naar mennsker likevel gaar tapt tross Kristi stedfortredende sonedød, saa er det fordi de har sagt seg løs fra sin stedfortreder, etter at de har hørt ordet om forsoningen. Det er deres fortapelse. Uten stedfortrederen, Kristus, er der ingen forsoning, ingen ny pakt, men bare vrede og straff. Skriften sier at det no er bare en synd som bringer mennesket en evig fortapelse, den nemlig at det ikke vil tro paa stedfortrederen, Johs. 3:18, 36; 16:9.

H. A. S.

Hvordan er jeg egentlig?

Et eksamensvidnesbyrd er i virkeligheten ikke noe bevis paa hvad en mann kan. En prøve som en vet om paa forhaand saa en kan forberede sig paa forskjellig vis, gir som regel ikke noe klart bilde av hvad en kan prestere. Slik er det paa alle livets omraader.

Nar Gud stiller oss paa prøve, varsler han oss aldri paa forhaand. Det gjør i bunn og grunn er, viser sig i et lynglimt, naar jeg ikke aner at noen iakttar mig. Et menneskes karakter viser sig i smaating i hverdagslivets mange tilfældigheter. Jeg bedømmer aldri en mann efter det han er paa prekestolen. Naar han er hjemme, nar han ikke har grunn till aa tro at nogen legger merke til hva han sier eller gjør, da kan en bli klar over hva han virkelig er.

Det er ikke paa møtene om søndagen en skal finne ut hvordan en kristen arbeider er. Det ser en klarere mandag, tirsdag og onsdag —

—Campbell Morgan

Ti han er naadens sol og skinn,
Nu dagen lyser til oss inn,
Og syndens natt er svunnet. Halle-
luja!

—Rev. Landstad 336.6.
—H. Arnholt Strand.

Bibellesningens 10 Bud

1. Sørg for at ha en god og sterk bibel som kan taale understrekning. Støtt lesningen ved hjelpemidler.
2. Bær alltid et nytestamente paa dig, og skam dig ikke for at lese i det.
3. Bruk minst et kvarter hver dag til bibellesning. Hvis du had vanskelig for at faa tid om morgenen (som er langt at foretrekke!) saa gjør det i stedet om kvelden, litt før du gaar til ro.
4. Be alid før du slaar op din tekst, om Guds Ands veiledning saa du kan lese Hans vilje og vei i Ordet som bare aapner sig for den som ber og banker.
5. Legg vekt paa nøiaktig sitering av skriften, og lær de skriftsteder utenand som sier mest til dig. De steder som du ikke forstaa skal du ikke av den grund betrakte som uvesentlige, men spørre en mere erfaren kristen til raads om.
6. Les ikke bare Bibelen i sammenheng, men indfør ved siden av den regelmessige daglige bibellesning en systematisk plan i studie ved at studere enkelte emner som f. eks. troen, korset, bønnen, naaden etc. eller bibelske hovedpersoner (Abraham, Moses, Elias, David, døperen Johannes, Paulus, etc.)
7. Vær ikke redd for at understreke din bibel, og gjøre notater i margen.
8. Studer de enkelte skrifter i N. T. for at danne dig et begrep om forfatteren, hans tid, lesekrets. og hans særlige budskap.
9. Søk at utrede forbindelse mellem den gamle og den nye pakt. Studer Hebreerbrevet og 3. Mosebok sammen. Apostelenes gjerning og Brevene, profeterne og de historiske bøker i Det gamle testamente.
10. Sist, men ikke minst: Prøv dig selv paa skriftordet, find dets særlige budskap til dig paa hver enkelt dag! Be og arbeide dig frem gjennom ordet, saa det blir din vandrinstav, da vil din fortrolighet med Bibelen efterhaanden dyktiggjøre dig til at lede andre paa vei til Gud.

—“Banneret”

ER DU EN BROR, ELLER . . .

En av mine venner, en indier med en elskelig karakter og en skarp aand, fortalte mig at han var en stolt, reservert bramin endog efterat han blev en kristen. Han følte sig bedre end andre paa grund av sin fødsel. Han interesserte sig ikke for andre.

Saa en dag blev han og andre i en overfylt buss kastet over en demning i det bussen veltet. Han og de øvrige var i felles ulykke.

Som han kravlet ut av vrakstumpene, hendte der noe i hans indre. For han saa i et glimt at han var bundet sammen med alle andre menneskeliv og delte deres felles lidelser.

Han kom ut fra denne oplevelse som en bror for et hvert menneske og har levd slik siden.

Fra den dag har alltid Jesus fylt hans horisont.

—Stanley Jones.

LUTHERS TESTAMENTE,

som han skrev og overgav sin hustru da han var syk:

Juli 1527

Kjæreste Gud, jeg takker dig av hjertet at det har vært din vilje at jeg her paa jorden skulde være fattig. Derfor har jeg hverken hus eller aker, penger eller gods at efterlate min hustru og mine barn. Likesom du har git mig dem, saa gir jeg dig dem tilbake igjen. Du rike, trofaste Gud, ernær dem, undervis dem og forsørg dem, som du hittil naadig har ernæret undervist og forsørgt mig, du, de faderløses far og enkers dommer.”

I Brennpunktet

SYND OG FORLATELSE

Dette var ikke den første urett og feiltakelse romersk rettferdighet hadde gjort. Andre uskyldige menn hadde blitt korsfestet og protestert med leber hovnet av smerte. Men her var noe nytt paa et romersk kors. Ingen rop og skrik av protest og pine. Bare en bønn om at de som gjorde dette mot Ham maatte forlates. Naar mennsker korsfester sin Gud, kan de vente aa høre noe ganske forskjellig fra det tilvante . . .

Heller ikke hadde en røst som denne vært hørt i Aten eller Roma eller Delhi. Andre menn hadde naad op til det Ukjente, no naadde Gud selv inn i det kjente.

Hans første ord er Hans siste bønn. Den naar op til himmelen som ingen annen bønn i hele meneskehetens historie. Tynget av synd. Aarhundreders ensomhet, hat og tyranni, før og etter. Et menneskes synd, er tross alt, begrenset av den tid og det rom som er tillatt det. Mennesket er synd, komplett synd, men det har bare sytti aar og noen faa kvadratmil til utarbeide sin synd.

Men ved korset blir all synd samlet op og plasert paa en høy utenfor Jerusalem. Her møtes det totale. All synd, total synd; og all forlatelse, total forlatelse. Totalsommen av menneskets aar og menneskets skam og den langt større sum av Guds forlatelse og Guds kjærlighet.

Dette er vaar tro. En religion uten forlatelse er bare et spøkelse av en religion som gaar igjen ved graven av død tro og tapt haap. Ingen visdom, ingen kultur, ingen filosofi kan tilfredstille menneskets dypeste trang, trangten til en haand saa sterk at den kan rive ned skillemuren mellom de to verdener vi tilhører og maa leve i. Og trangten til et hjerte saa stort og varmt at det kan ta alle menneskets synder inn i seg selv og enno ha plass til forlatelse. Visselig, en dag dette, aar—Langfredag—burde disse to ting huskes klart: **synd og forlatelse.**

I den kommende døds stillhet, en røst vi sjelden hører, roper i skyggen av de kors vi har satt op for oss selv og for andre: “Fader, forlat dem, ti de vet ikke hvad de gjr.” —H. A. S.

Hvorfor støttene falder

“Se der, far,” sa en gut som en dag var ute og spaserte med sin far langsmed en elv, “de tar stolpene bort under broen! Hvorfor gjør de det? Vil broen ikke falde ned?”

“De tar stolpene bort,” sa faren, “for at broen kan hvile saa meget fastere paa stenpillerne, som nu er ferdig.”

Gud tar vore jordiske støtter bort for at vi mer rolig og sikker skal hvile paa ham selv.

Jesus er det faste fundament som bærer os frelst over livets farlige avgrund.

“Hjem jeg lenges! Ei jeg trives,
Her i jordens jammerdal;
Til Guds salen hjertet drives
Op til Lammets bryllups-sal.

Hver enkelt falskhet, som settes igang, alltid trenger en hel del flere for at holde den gaande.

Vemmelige syner

Noe ev det mest vemmelige at se er en kvinde som er drukken, og ikke langt bakefter en som suger paa en sigaret. En anden svskyelighet, er den moderne kvindes paakledning og den moderne badedrakten for baade mend og kvinder ved vore badesteder. Det er en refleksjon paa umoralske tanker.—Christian Victory Mag.

Easter Lilies

Living thoughts
That blossom forth
At Easter time—
Of tall lilies—
Gently bowing
In silent prayer
Round about our Lutheran altars,
Of white petals
First pointing upward
To Him;
Then downward
Toward our dear confirmands,
Kneeling in reverence
Before the altar,
Taking sacred vows of allegiance
To Him
Toward whom white petals point,
And seeming as pure and sweet
As altar lilies.

Ponder anew
How lily leaves do grow:
'Tis row on row—
Straight—orderly—
An unseen law obeying,
Ever to abound that way,
And pointing—
Always pointing—
Some—upward to Him;
Some—outward to others.

So may the dear confirmands
On other Easter days,
As they look
Into the heart of the lily,
See the purity,
The beauty,
The unseen law,
The loving care;
And hear, sweetly flowing,
Their Savior's words:
"Consider the lilies!"

—Arline C. Sheill in Lutheran Standard.

Albert WMF Workers' Conference

This Workers' Conference was held in the Corona Hotel, Edmonton, November 21st and 22nd. We were very fortunate in having with us for a whole day, Pastor Mars Dale, President of our Church in Canada District. The inspiration and helpful advice received were doubly appreciated because we were few in numbers. Only the Camrose and Peace River Circuit Presidents were present. However, the general Charity Secretary and the full executive were in attendance. This was a real Workers' Conference, said Pastor Dale, because we all sat around a table and talked and all asked question. Emphasis was placed on how we could best reach all the Aids in Canada still outside the influence of the WMF. The influence we wish to exert is spiritual so that we might bring Christ into the hearts and homes of every member. The discussions and recommendations were the subject of much prayer and presented a very real request to us to "Do Something". The findings are as follows: 1. That we request the daily Bible reading for every member of the Aid as outlined in a pamphlet which will be forwarded to each Ladies' Aid. 2. Circuit officers to serve for two years and stand for only one re-election. 3. That each Ladies' Aid set aside at least one meeting a year for the cause of Temperance. We also recommend that each Ladies' Aid subscribe to the "White Ribbon Tidings" for program material. (Address — Business Mgr. II Prince Arthur Ave., Toronto 5.) 4. Circuit Presidents are requested to visit all Aids at least once a year, also call a Workers' Conference annually. 5. That we ask for five two-minute spot announcements featuring the WMF Departments over CFRN and CFCN. 6. That we send a contribution of \$75 to the Shepherd. 7. Circuit Presidents are asked to notify Ladies' Aids to send all monies (except for News Bulletin) to N.L.C.C. Luther Seminary, Saskatoon, Sask.

—Mrs. L. Foster, Dist. Sec.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION

Editor: Mrs. Josef B. Haave, Rose Valley, Saskatchewan.

"Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5: 5. Jesus speaks to His disciples. He calls those blessed who are considered unfortunate in the eyes of the world. Men see what is on the surface, but the Lord sees deep into men's hearts and lives. The world seems to say, "Blessed are the strong who can hold their own," but Christ says, "Blessed are the meek." This quality of meekness or humility is a feature of the life of the kingdom of God. Without humility there may be success but never greatness. It is the fruit of the spirit.

But you ask, "What is Christian meekness?" Christian meekness may be found in those "who resign their all to the will of God, and who, without anger and resentment, tolerate those who harm them or cause them personal offense. The meek remain calm and unruffled when others are easily aroused; they do not seek revenge but forgive from a loving heart." Do not confuse meekness with weakness. If we submit our wills to His divine will, then meekness is reflected in our attitude toward others. When we keep our temper in check, when we are wronged or abused, we show no resentment, and when we remain calm and poised when others are upset and agitated, then we are on the way to meekness and victory. Having this "terrible meekness," as E. Stanley Jones calls it, we are constrained to go out to serve, "to overcome evil with good." Christ who was perfect meekness, threw the money changers out of the temple when they became corrupt. So we, who seek to follow Him, must be militant in our attitude toward public evils. We must be robed in the meekness that overcomes.

What is the source of this meekness? When we experience "poverty of spirit" and "mourning," we are led to the Cross of Christ. Then, too, we must have open minds, willing to be guided and molded by the Holy Spirit. We must become like little children and learn of Him.

The promise in this Beatitude has a double reference since it applies to the present as well as to the future. Outwardly the earth belongs to the strong — the persons who shove, push, and step on everyone's feet. However, the meek who inherit the earth are those who possess a peacefulness of heart and so possess themselves. The child of God is the real ruler of the world. The promise is also for the future. "Blessed is the man who endures trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12.

—WMF Program Series.

April is the month for bringing before our women the work of our department on Christian education. This subject can not be dealt with fully here, but there are some facts that should be brought to mind. Fortunate indeed, is the boy or girl who has been brought up in a Christian home, who has had the advantages of a Christian Sunday School, and who has been under the influence of the teachings of the Christian Church. But now comes the time for them to go away from home to obtain more education. Parents, do you consider carefully the contacts your boys and girls will find away from home? You all, I am sure, want only the best for them. And the best is only the education which is given them in the light of the Bible. Yes, our Lutheran Church maintains many such colleges and schools. In Saskatchewan there is S.L.B.I. at Outlook; in Alberta, Camrose College and C.L.B.I. These schools with their well qualified teaching staff, the Christian atmosphere which permeates all activities, makes them the best possible schools

for our young people. The wonderful fellowship enjoyed at these Christian Church colleges and schools is like being at home in a large family that puts Christ first in all things. When your boy or girl is planning on going to college, consider well the advantages and privileges of the Church School, where the best interests of the student are always foremost. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Tim. 2:15.—S. L. H.

Contributed News Items Camrose Circuit WMF

The WMF executive met on February 22nd to make plans for the spring convention which is to be held at the Parkland Lutheran Church, May 17. The theme is centred around Evangelism and several ladies will develop this topic. Will all officers and secretaries endeavor to get full reports ready for the convention? We hope all local Aids have already sent in their triplicate cards, work sheets and expense fees. If you have not done so, please do it now. The first Workers' conference was also held the same day. One lady came 100 miles to be present. We had a blessed time. Pray and plan that what is done may be to the glory of God and the extension of His kingdom.

—Mrs. Robert Lyseng, Sec.

Yorkton Circuit WMF

The spring convention is being held in Zion Lutheran Church, Leroy, Sask., on May 7th. All department secretaries are reminded to have a report and a brief explanation of the work of their department. All local aids are asked to please have delegates elected; a Workers' conference is to be held also. Mrs. Mars A. Dale of Saskatoon, is to be our guest speaker again this year. Pray! Plan! Come!

—Mrs. J. B. Haave, Pres.

Higher Education

Zion LDR of Rose Valley held their Mission meeting at Church on March 10th, the topic being, "Daring to be Different," with special emphasis on witnessing for Christ in our daily contacts, in our Church work and in our personal consecration. Their regular LDR meeting day is the second Monday of the month. In the months that have five Mondays they meet in the Church and have a Mission meeting to which they specially invite the congregation. The president, Miss Wilma Engebretson, presided and after she read the worship offering meditation her twin sisters, Mary and Josie, brought the Mission offering forward to the altar. The social hour followed the suggestions given in "Better Leagues for March."

Hasn't your Ladies' Aid or LDR had anything that would be of interest to readers of this page? How about some news Bardo? or Calgary? or Weldon? or Aarnes? There are many more than these four so by the 10th of April, I'll have a long page full, IF . . . Secretaries, send in the facts and I'll do the rest. (My name and address you'll find at the top of this page.)

From Our District President

Dear Ladies' Aids: I hope you've all had a lovely time filling your Penny-a-Meal boxes during this Lent. Now, may you have a Blessed Easter. May Easter to you and to me, more than ever, become a "filling station" for "the power of His resurrection" in our lives. God grant that in our homes, in our daily work, in our Ladies' Aid contacts and community interests, we may show not only that Christ is dear to us, but that He is the "Power for this Hour."

Now to remind you of several things: 1. The Bible reading program

we had planned to begin in January, has been postponed until fall. There are several reasons for this decision; the main one being that the reading of Acts is being emphasized by the committee on Evangelism and we want our women to read Acts, too. 2. There are three letters in all that have been out to the Ladies' Aids of Canada in 1947. You may wonder "Why so many?" Well, you see, it's this way. Of the first two that came together, the one was a reminder sheet, and the other an urgent plea by our treasurer for more help for the Circuit and District treasuries. The other letter was an explanation of the Women's Missionary Federation, just to make it easier for some of the women to understand how it works. 3. Those program reminders are meant to be useful! So if the letter containing those didn't reach the right person, please turn them over to the president right away, will you? And if any of you have any suggestions for improving them, we'd be glad to hear from you. One pastor's wife wrote that she thought they were splendid and wished every pastor's wife could have one too. What do you think? 4. Soon you will be having Circuit conventions. When you meet, will you discuss these letters to the Aids, the reminders, and the plea for more money in the treasury. You see the real reason we need more is because we have asked every Circuit president to make arrangements to visit your Aid. Yes, all the others too, before the summer fairly begins. If she cannot reach you herself, she is to call on some of her other officers to help. In this way we hope to prepare the way for the Workers' Conferences to be held in each Circuit in the spring when Miss Alice Sanne of head office, will be our guest. 5. Did you hear the WMF "Spot" announcement on Charities and Self-Denial in February? It was given over your Lutheran Hour station. Watch for more of these "Spot" announcements; in May it will be on Life Membership and In Memoriam. In July on Promotion; September, on Missions and Mission Boxes; November, on Christian Education and Thank Offering. Another item of interest about radio is that Mrs. Lavik is trying to assemble data and start a history of our radio work in Canada. 6. Oh, yes, have you tried sending your WMF money to Saskatoon? We are permitted to do that now. Even the News Bulletin money may be sent there now because 50 cents is so small a sum for us to send at one time to head office, and they cannot cash our little 25-cent stamps or postal stickers there.

Finally, I want to join with your editor in a plea for news items. This is your page. It costs a lot of money. We want to make it up to date, interesting and inspiring. We want to glorify the Lord through it. We want to publicize our WMF through it. You'll help us won't you? Tell us what your Circuits are doing. Tell us of some special occasion in your Ladies' Aid. But make your news brief. We can't be too long-winded or others won't get a chance! And also, send in your news before it gets old or stale.

I hope to greet you again next month with a little message.
Yours in Christ, Magda Hendrickson.

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